

## Shellfish Management Areas



### General Provisions:

You may take shellfish for subsistence uses at any time in any area of Federal public waters by any method, unless restricted by this section or emergency action. Federal subsistence shellfish management includes Dungeness crab, king crab, Tanner crab, shrimp, clams, abalone, sea cucumbers, sea peaches, and other shellfish or their parts. Many shellfish species are jointly regulated by the National Marine Fisheries Service and the State of Alaska under an agreement signed in the 1970s.

### Licenses:

You must be a rural Alaska resident, but no licenses are required to take shellfish for subsistence purposes.

### Possession:

You may not possess, transport, give, receive or barter shellfish or their parts taken in violation of Federal or State regulations.

### Legal Size:

You may not take or possess shellfish smaller than the minimum legal size limits.

# GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR TAKING SHELLFISH

## Shellfish Terms:

The following definitions shall apply to all subsistence shellfishery regulations contained in this booklet:

**Abalone Iron** is a flat device used for taking abalone. It is more than one inch (24 mm) wide and less than 24 inches (610 mm) long, with all prying edges rounded and smoothed.

**Crab** means the following species: Red king crab (*Paralithodes camshatica*); blue king crab (*Paralithodes platypus*); Brown king crab (*Lithodes aequispina*); *Lithodes couesi*; all species of tanner or snow crab (*Chionoecetes* spp.); and Dungeness crab (*Cancer magister*).

**Diving Gear** is any type of hard hat or skin diving equipment, including SCUBA equipment, tethered, umbilical, surface-supplied, or snorkel.

**Gear** means any type of shellfishing apparatus.

**Grappling Hook** is a hooked device with flukes or claws that is attached to a line and operated by hand.

**Handline** is a hand-held and operated line, with one or more hooks attached.

**Harvest Limit** is the maximum legal take per person or designated group, per specified time period, in the area in which the person is shellfishing, even if part or all of the shellfish are preserved.

**Hydraulic Clam Digger** is a device using water (or a combination of air and water) to harvest clams.

**Mechanical Clam Digger** is a mechanical device used (or capable of being used) for the taking of clams.

**Mile** is a nautical mile when used in reference to marine waters, or a statute mile when used in reference to fresh water.

**Possession Limit** is the maximum number of shellfish a person (or designated group) may have in possession if the shellfish have not been canned, salted, frozen, smoked, dried, or otherwise preserved so as to be fit for human consumption after a 15 day period.

**Pot** means a portable structure designed and constructed to capture and retain live shellfish in the water.

**Ring Net** is a bag-shaped net suspended between no more than two frames. The bottom frame may not be larger in perimeter than the top frame. The gear must be nonrigid and collapsible, so that free movement of shellfish across the top of the net is not prohibited when the net is employed.

**Scallop Dredge** is a dredge-like device designed specifically for (and capable of) taking scallops by being towed along the ocean floor.

**Sea Urchin Rake** is a hand-held implement, no longer than four feet, which is equipped with projecting prongs. The rake is used to gather sea urchins.

**Shovel** is a hand-held implement for digging clams.

**Subsistence fishing permit** means a permit issued by ADF&G, unless specifically noted otherwise.

**To operate shellfishing gear** means any of the following: (1) To deploy gear in the water; (2) to remove gear from the water; (3) to remove shellfish from the gear during an open season or period; (4) to possess a gillnet containing shellfish during an open shellfishing period (except that a gillnet that is completely clear of the water is not considered to be operating for the purposes of minimum distance requirement).

**Trawl** is a bag-shaped net towed through the water to capture shellfish. A trawl includes beam, otter, or pelagic trawl.

# GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR TAKING SHELLFISH

## Methods and Means:

**Harvest Limit:** The harvest limit for a subsistence season for a species and the State bag limit set for a State season for the same species are not cumulative. This means you can take the harvest limit for a particular species under a Federal subsistence season, but may not take any additional shellfish of that species under any other State season bag limit.

**Gear:** You may use gear outlined in the above definitions of this booklet for subsistence taking of shellfish.

**Purchase/Sale:** You are prohibited from buying or selling subsistence-taken shellfish, their parts, or their eggs, unless otherwise specified.

**Explosives/Chemicals:** You may not use explosives and chemicals, except that you may use chemical baits or lures to attract shellfish.

**Identification/Gear Marking Requirements:** Marking requirements for subsistence shellfish gear are:

- Plainly and legibly inscribe your first initial, last name, and address on a keg or buoy attached to any unattended subsistence shellfishing gear, except when shellfishing through the ice.
- For ice fishing, you may substitute for the keg or buoy, a stake inscribed with your first initial, last name, and address inserted into the ice near the hole.
- Subsistence shellfishing gear may not display a permanent ADF&G vessel license number.
- Kegs or buoys attached to subsistence crab pots also must be inscribed with the name or United States Coast Guard number of the vessel used to operate the pots.

**Escape Mechanism:** Pots used for subsistence shellfishing must comply with the escape mechanism requirements outlined on page 4.

**Disfiguration:** You may not mutilate or otherwise disfigure a crab in any manner that would prevent determination of the minimum size restrictions, until the crab has been processed or prepared for consumption.

## Designating Another Person to Harvest Shellfish:

If you are a Federally-qualified subsistence user (beneficiary), you may designate another Federally-qualified subsistence user to take shellfish on your behalf. The designated fisherman must possess a valid designated harvest permit when taking, attempting to take, or transporting shellfish taken on behalf of a beneficiary. Any species of shellfish that may be taken by subsistence fishing, may be taken under a designated harvest permit.

The designated fisherman must get a designated harvest permit before attempting to harvest shellfish, and return a completed harvest report.

The designated fisherman may harvest for any number of beneficiaries, but must not have more than two harvest limits in his/her possession at any one time, or fish with more than one legal limit of gear.

You may not designate more than one person to take or attempt to take shellfish on your behalf at one time. You may not personally take or attempt to take shellfish at the same time that a designated fisherman is taking or attempting to take shellfish on your behalf.

# GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR TAKING SHELLFISH

## Shellfishing Permits and Reports:

If a subsistence shellfishing permit is required, the following conditions apply:

- You may not take more shellfish for subsistence than the limits set out in the permit, unless a different limit is specified in this section.
- You must get a permit before subsistence fishing.
- You must have the permit in your possession and readily available for inspection while taking or transporting the species for that permit.
- The permit may include the species and numbers of shellfish to be harvested, time and area of fishing, the type and amount of fishing gear and other conditions necessary for management or conservation purposes.
- If specified on the permit, you need to keep accurate daily catch records. You need to show the number of shellfish taken by species, location, and date of the catch, and any other information required for management or conservation purposes.
- You must complete and submit subsistence fishing reports at a time specified for each particular area and fishery. The return of catch information is often necessary for management and conservation purposes. If you ignore the reporting requirements or follow procedures for reporting accurately, you will be ineligible to receive a subsistence permit for that activity during the following calendar year. When that happens, you may appeal your ineligibility if you can demonstrate your failure to report was due to unavoidable circumstances, such as loss in the mail, accident, or sickness.

## Subsistence Take by Commercial Vessels:

No commercially registered and licensed fishing vessel for shrimp pot, shrimp trawl, king crab, Tanner crab, or Dungeness crab fishing may be used for subsistence take during the period starting 14 days before an opening until 14 days after the closure of a respective open season in the area or areas for which the vessel is registered. However, if you are a commercial fisherman, you may keep shellfish for your own use from your lawfully taken commercial catch.

## Lodges, Charters, Guides:

An owner, operator, or employee of a lodge, charter vessel, or other enterprise that furnishes food, lodging, or guide services may not furnish subsistence taken shellfish to a client or guest of that enterprise, unless:

- The shellfish was taken with gear deployed and retrieved by the client or guest who is a Federally-qualified subsistence user.
- The gear was marked with the client's or guest's name and address.
- The shellfish is to be consumed by (or in the presence of) the client or guest.
- The captain and crewmembers of a charter vessel may not deploy, set, or retrieve their own gear in a subsistence shellfish fishery when that vessel is being chartered.

# SHELLFISH

## Subsistence Shellfish Management Areas



### Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area

No marine waters are currently identified for Federal subsistence management jurisdiction. The following communities and areas have a positive customary and traditional use determination in the listed area for the indicated species:

CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL USE DETERMINATIONS		
Area	Species	Determination
Section 1-E south of the latitude of Grant Island light.	Shellfish, except shrimp, king crab, and Tanner crab	Residents of the Southeast Area.
Section 1-F north of the latitude of the northernmost tip of Mary Island, except waters of Boca de Quadra	Shellfish, except shrimp, king crab, and Tanner crab	Residents of the Southeast Area
Section 3-A and 3-B	Shellfish, except shrimp, king crab, and Tanner crab	Residents of the Southeast Area
District 13	Dungeness crab, shrimp, abalone, sea cucumbers, gum boots, cockles, and clams, except geoducks	Residents of the Southeast Area

### Prince William Sound Area

No marine waters are currently identified for Federal subsistence management jurisdiction.

CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL USE DETERMINATIONS		
Area	Species	Determination
Prince William Sound Area	Shrimp, clams, Dungeness, king, and Tanner crab	Residents of the Prince William Sound Area.

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## Cook Inlet Area

You may take shellfish for subsistence purposes. Marine water jurisdiction is very limited, occurring in the vicinity of Tuxedni Bay and Chisik Island (see map on next page). Availability of shellfish species within this area of jurisdiction is uncertain.

CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL USE DETERMINATIONS		
Area	Species	Determination
Federal waters in the Tuxedni Bay Area within the boundaries of Lake Clark National Park & Preserve or Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge	Shellfish	Residents of Tuxedni Bay, Chisik Island, and Tyonek

You may not take king crab, Dungeness crab, or shrimp for subsistence purposes.

## Tanner Crab:

You may take male Tanner crab only from July 15-March 15.

Harvest Limit: The daily harvest and possession limit is five male Tanner crab.

You may take or possess only male Tanner crab five and one-half inches or greater in width of shell.

All crab pots used for subsistence fishing and left in saltwater unattended longer than a two-week period must have all bait and bait containers removed and all doors secured fully open.

Crab pot limit: No more than two pots per person, regardless of type, with a maximum of 2 pots per vessel, regardless of type, may be used to take Tanner crab.

## Clams:

Harvest Limit:

- Littleneck Clams - The daily harvest and possession limit for littleneck clams is 1,000 and the minimum size is 1.5 inches in length.
- Butter Clams - The daily harvest and possession limit for butter clams is 700 and the minimum size is 2.5 inches in length.

## Other Shellfish:

Other than specified above, there are no harvest, possession, or size limits for other shellfish, and the season is open all year.



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## Kodiak Area

ADF&G crab permit required. You may take crab for subsistence purposes only with a subsistence crab fishing permit issued by the ADF&G.

ADF&G shrimp permit required. The operator of a commercially licensed and registered shrimp fishing vessel must get a subsistence fishing permit from the ADF&G before subsistence shrimp fishing during a closed commercial shrimp fishing season (or within a closed commercial shrimp fishing district, section or subsection). The permit specifies the area and the date the vessel operator intends to fish. No more than 500 pounds (227 kg) of shrimp may be in possession aboard the vessel.

CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL USE DETERMINATIONS		
Area	Species	Determination
Kodiak Area, except for the Semidi Island, the North Mainland, and the South Mainland Sections	Shrimp, Dungeness, and Tanner crab	Residents of the Kodiak Area
	King crab	Residents of the Kodiak Island Borough, except those residents on the Kodiak Coast Guard base.

### Dungeness Crab:

Harvest Limit. The daily harvest and possession limit is 12 male Dungeness crab per person. Only male Dungeness crab with a shell width of six and one-half inches or greater may be taken or possessed.

Taking of Dungeness crab is prohibited in water 25 fathoms or more in depth during the 14 days immediately before the opening of a commercial king or Tanner crab fishing season in the location.

### King Crab:

Harvest limit: The annual harvest and possession limit is six crabs per household. Only male king crabs seven inches or greater in width of shell may be taken or possessed.

All crab pots used for subsistence fishing and left in saltwater unattended longer than a two-week period must have all bait and bait containers removed and all doors secured fully open.

Crab pot limit: You may use only one crab pot of any size to take king crab.

Season: You may take king crab only from June 1 - January 31, except you cannot take king crab for subsistence in waters 25 fathoms or greater in depth during the period 14 days before and 14 days after open commercial fishing seasons for red king crab, blue king crab, or Tanner crab in these locations.

# SHELLFISH

## Kodiak Area (continued)

The following areas are closed to the harvest of king crab, except by Federally-qualified subsistence users:

- The waters of the Pacific Ocean enclosed by the boundaries of Womens Bay, Gibson Cove, and an area defined by a line ½ mile on either side of the mouth of the Karluk River, and extending seaward 3,000 feet.
- Afognak Island area. All waters within 1,500 feet seaward of the shoreline of Afognak Island.

## Tanner Crab:

Harvest Limit: The daily harvest and possession limit is 12 male Tanner crabs per person. Only crabs with a shell width of five and one-half inches or greater may be taken or possessed.

Crab Pot Limit: You may not use more than five crab pots to take Tanner crab.

Commercial Season Limit: You may not take Tanner crab in waters 25 fathoms or greater in depth during the 14 days immediately before the opening of a commercial king or Tanner crab fishing season in the location.

## Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area

CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL USE DETERMINATIONS		
Area	Species	Determination
Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area	Shrimp; Dungeness, King, and Tanner crab	Residents of the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area

## Shrimp:

Shrimp Vessels-ADF&G permit required: The operator of a commercially licensed and registered shrimp fishing vessel must get a subsistence fishing permit from the ADF&G prior to subsistence shrimp fishing during a closed commercial shrimp fishing season or within a closed commercial shrimp fishing district, section, or subsection. The permit must specify the area and the date the vessel operator intends to fish. No more than 500 pounds (227 kg) of shrimp may be in possession aboard the vessel.

## Dungeness Crab:

Harvest Limit: The daily harvest and possession limit is 12 male Dungeness crabs per person. You may take or possess crabs only with a shell width of five and one-half inches or greater.



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## King Crab:

Harvest Limit: The daily harvest and possession limit is six male king crabs per person. You may take or possess crabs only with a shell width of six and one-half inches or greater.

Unattended pots: All crab pots used for subsistence fishing and left in saltwater unattended longer than a two-week period, must have all bait and bait containers removed and all doors secured fully open.

Season limit: You may take crabs only from June 1-January 31.

## Tanner Crab:

Harvest limit: The daily harvest and possession limit is 12 male Tanner crabs per person. You may take or possess only crabs with a shell width of five and one-half inches or greater.

## Bering Sea Area

Gear: In that portion of the area north of the latitude of Cape Newenham, shellfish may only be taken by shovel, jigging gear, pots and ring net.

CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL USE DETERMINATIONS		
Area	Species	Determination
Bering Sea Area	All shellfish	Residents of the Bering Sea Area

## Shrimp:

Shrimp Vessels-ADF&G permit required: The operator of a commercially licensed and registered shrimp fishing vessel must obtain an ADF&G permit.

## King Crab:

Harvest limit: In waters south of 60° N. Latitude, the daily harvest and possession limit is six male crab per person;

Unattended pots: All crab pots used for subsistence fishing and left in saltwater unattended longer than a two-week period must have all bait and bait containers removed and all doors secured fully open.

Season limit: In waters south of 60° N. Latitude, you may take crab only from June 1 - January 31.

Permit required: In the Norton Sound Section of the Northern District, you must have a subsistence permit.

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### Dungeness and Tanner Crab:

Harvest limit: In waters south of 60° N. Latitude, the daily harvest and possession limits are 12 male Dungeness crab per person and 12 male Tanner crab per person.